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10/518,666	12/17/2004	Hajime Mackawa	MAT-8639US	6837
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P.O. BOX 980			TRAN, NGHI V	
VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,666

Applicant(s)

MAEKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

NGHI V. TRAN

Art Unit

2451

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2010.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/IC)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/2004 & 09/18/2006
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the response to election filed on May 06, 2010. No claims have been amended. Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-21 and 24-25 are presented for further examination.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-21 drawn to an information processing system including an electronic apparatus, a server and an external apparatus, class 709, subclass 203 in the reply filed on May 06, 2010 is acknowledged.

3. Claims 22 and 23 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group II and Group III, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on May 06, 2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-2, 5-21 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagaoka et al., US Publication No. 2002/0180579 (hereinafter Nagaoka).

6. With respect to claims 1, 8, 12, 14-15, and 18-20, Nagaoka an information processing system [fig.1] including an electronic apparatus [= a user of terminal 1], a server [= a home server 61], and an external apparatus [= electronic device group 62 such as microwave, rice cooker, refrigerator, lighting fixtures, air conditioner, video recorder, gas leakage detection device, and water heater], wherein

- the electronic apparatus [= a user of terminal 1] comprises:
 - an operation information acquirer (hereinafter, the acquirer) for acquiring first operation information from the server, the electronic apparatus operating with the first operation information [= obtaining status information showing the status of the electronic device group 62 from home server 61 when a user of electronic device group 62 operates a terminal 1 to make a request to home network management facility 5, see abstract and paragraph 0130 and 0218]; and
 - an operation controller for directing so that the electronic apparatus operates according to the first operation information [= operation control such as turn off gas value of fig.16E],

- the external apparatus [= electronic device group **62** such as microwave, rice cooker, refrigerator, lighting fixtures, air conditioner, video recorder, gas leakage detection device, and water heater] comprises:
 - an external information storage (hereinafter, the first storage) for storing an external apparatus identifier [= terminal ID such as "MSa"], the external apparatus identifier identifying the external apparatus [fig.21];
 - a setting information acceptor (hereinafter, the first acceptor) for accepting input of an electronic apparatus identifier [= "1" as Security System, "2" as Video Recorder, and ... "8" as Gas Control], the electronic apparatus identifier identifying the electronic apparatus, and the first operation information [figs.16A-E]; and
 - an operation setting information transmitter (hereinafter, the first transmitter) for transmitting the external apparatus identifier [= terminal ID such as "MSa"], the electronic apparatus identifier [= electronic device group **62** such as microwave, rice cooker, refrigerator, lighting fixtures, air conditioner, video recorder, gas leakage detection device, and water heater], and the first operation information [= operation status such as security system "ON", see fig.7], to the server [= a home server **61**] [see abstract and paragraphs 0083-0089], and
- the server [= a home server **61**] comprises:
 - an operation information control table storage (hereinafter, the second storage) [= status information table, 514 & 614] for storing an

operation information control table including at least one operation information control record [= video reorder and/or security system], the record including the external apparatus identifier, the electronic apparatus identifier [= home network ID], and the first operation information [figs.2, 5, &7];

- an operation setting information receiver (hereinafter, the first receiver) [= communication unit 513 and/or radio communication unit 612] for receiving the external apparatus identifier [= terminal ID, fig.6], the electronic apparatus identifier [= home network ID such as home.a, fig.7], and the first operation information, from the external apparatus [paragraphs 0115-0017]; and
- an operation information updating part (hereinafter, the first updating part) for updating the operation information control table, according to the external apparatus identifier, the electronic apparatus identifier, and the first operation information [= modified status information, paragraph 0131, 0132, 0135, and 0190-0194].

7. With respect to claim 2, wherein the electronic apparatus [= terminal 1] further comprises:

- an operation information input acceptor (hereinafter, the second acceptor) for accepting input of second operation information [figs.12-13]; and

- a second operation information transmitter (hereinafter, second transmitter) for transmitting the second operation information, and the electronic apparatus identifier, to the server [paragraphs 0148-0160], and
- the external apparatus [= electronic device group **62** such as microwave, rice cooker, refrigerator, lighting fixtures, air conditioner, video recorder, gas leakage detection device, and water heater] further comprises:
- an operation information acquisition information input acceptor (hereinafter, the third acceptor) for accepting input of operation information acquisition information including the electronic apparatus identifier [= a location information unit i.e. GPS 605 for obtaining location information, fig.25];
- an operation information acquisition command transmitter (hereinafter, the third transmitter) for transmitting an operation information acquisition command to the server, the command including the operation information acquisition information and the external apparatus identifier [paragraphs 0034, 0285, 0293, 0320-0321 and 0329-0330];
- an operation information receiver (hereinafter, the second receiver) for receiving the second operation information acquired according to the operation information acquisition command [paragraphs 0282, 0285, 0292, 0320 and 0329]; and
- an operation information output part (hereinafter, the first output part) that outputs the second operation information [= displays a screen for showing the status of electronic device group **62**, see abstract and paragraphs 0020-0025].

8. With respect to claims 5 and 16, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the operation information control record further includes operation information transmission history information [= recording history, TBL1-2 of fig.3], the operation information transmission history information showing that the first operation information has been transmitted to the electronic apparatus [= lock log such as history 1 ... history 2, table 1-1, 1-2, and/or 2-1], and the first updating part updates the operation information transmission history information when the first operation information is transmitted to the electronic apparatus [paragraphs 0108-0112].

9. With respect to claims 6 and 13, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the acquirer regularly acquires the operation information from the server [= obtains status information showing the status of the electronic device group 62 from home server 61 when a user of electronic device group 62 operates a terminal 1 to make a request to home network management facility 5, see abstract and paragraph 0130 and 0218].

10. With respect to claims 7 and 17, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the server notifies [= notification server 7] the electronic apparatus of the first operation information after updating, when the first updating part updates the operation information control table [paragraphs 0035, 0038-0039, 0044, 0082, 0092 and 0096].

11. With respect to claims 9 and 21, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the external apparatus further includes a status information output part (hereinafter, the second output part) for outputting the status information received by the fourth receiver [= status information showing the status of the electronic device group 62 from home server 61 when a user of electronic device group 62 operates a terminal 1, see abstract and fig.1].

12. With respect to claims 10-11 and 24-25, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the external apparatus identifier includes an IP address defined in IP version 4 and IP version 6 [= Internet 4], and identifying information inherent in the external apparatus [paragraph 0087].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka, as applied in claim 1 above, and further in view of Raschke et al., US Patent No. 6,653,933 (hereinafter Raschke).

15. With respect to claims 3 and 4, Nagaoka further teaches wherein the external apparatus [= a user of terminal 1] is one of a plurality of external apparatuses [= a user of terminal 1 such Phone, PDA, and/or laptop, col.8, ll.6-16].

However, Nagaoka does not explicitly show the server stores priority information that is information showing which information has priority among pieces of the first operation information when the server receives the pieces of the first operation information from the external apparatuses, and the first updating part updates the operation information control table according to one piece of the first operation information that is given priority by the priority information.

In a related art, Raschke discloses the server stores priority information that is information showing which information has priority among pieces of the first operation information when the server receives the pieces of the first operation information from the external apparatuses, and the first updating part updates the operation information control table according to one piece of the first operation information that is given priority by the priority information [see abstract and col.11, ll.27-64].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Nagaoka in view of Raschke by showing which information has priority among pieces of the first operation information when the server receives the pieces of the first operation information from the external apparatuses because this feature enables the maximum utilization of available node

resources [Raschke, see abstract]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to indicate whether a thread is high or low priority [Raschke, col.11, ll.43-44].

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NGHI V. TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4067. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John Follansbee/

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Art Unit: 2451

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451